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U.S. Department of the Interior

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Chamizal National Memorial News Release

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Memorial selects poster artist for 35th anniversary of Siglo de Oro Drama Festival (2010)

Chamizal National Memorial is pleased to announce the selection of Rodolfo Razo as the official poster artist for the 35th anniversary of the Siglo de Oro Spanish Drama Festival scheduled for March 2010.

This year's artist selection was one of the most competitive in the festival's history with 21 entries. Among the entries were original works by professional and amateur artists, as well as professional works by area graphic designers. The selection panel was composed of the Chamizal employees and volunteers.

Rodolfo Razo's original work "Spanish Painting of the Baroque Period" features a lush backdrop of Moorish architecture representative of the Alhambra in Granada, Spain. Mr. Razo's professional training as a portrait artist is clearly demonstrated in the captivating couple painted in the foreground. Chamizal's Chief of Interpretation, Education, and Arts, Michael Groomer, states, "With all the great pieces submitted in this year's competition, the selecting panel had a lot to evaluate and think about. In the end, though, they felt that Mr. Razo's work best captured the feeling of Spain's Golden Age and our drama festival."

The Siglo de Oro Spanish Drama Festival began at Chamizal National Memorial in 1976 as a special Bicentennial event. No one at that time could have predicted that it would become the crown jewel of Chamizal's cultural programming as it now enters its 35th year. The festival is the oldest of its kind in the world, and is unique because it focuses solely on Spain's Golden Age of literature; an historic period that, according to some scholars, began as early as the late 15th century and continued until the late 17th century. Each year the memorial brings in professional acting troupes from around the Spanish speaking world to perform on stage each evening for five nights. After performing in El Paso, the groups then continue on to Ciudad Juarez for performances there. The Siglo de Oro has become an event to watch for in our borderland area.

Visitors are encouraged to learn more about Siglo de Oro by visiting the park's website. www.nps.gov/cham.

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